

“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”

MINUTES

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board
June 15, 2006

Meeting held at:

City Administration Building
202 “C” Street, 12th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing address is:

City of San Diego
Park & Recreation Board
202 “C” Street, MS 9B
San Diego, CA 92101

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Ginny Barnes, Acting Chair
Norman Greene
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds
Wilbur Smith

Members Absent

Darlene Davies
Dan Mazzella
Bob Otilie
Robert Robinson

Staff Present

Howard Greenstein
Ted Medina
Sally Pearson
April Pendera
Deborah Sharpe

Mr. Alex Sachs, Deputy City Attorney, was also present.

Ms. Davies gave notice that she would be late to the meeting.

Mr. Robinson gave notice that he was unable to attend the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Barnes called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Greene/Mr. Smith

The Minutes of May 18, 2006 were unanimously approved by the Board.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Laura Emerich would like to know what has happened to Grape Street Park. Although it is supposed to be a shared use passive park with a designated off-leash area, the entire 5.4 acres is now used as an off-leash area which has almost completely eliminated any passive recreational uses by those who also have a right to use the park.

Ms. Emerich would like to see consistent implementation of off-leash areas throughout the city so if one or two acres of a park in, for example, Rancho Bernardo or another part of the city is converted to an off leash area, the same rules would be applied to her neighborhood park as well. Since people who use Grape Street Park are coming from all areas of San Diego County, she would like to know how off-leash areas in the City of San Diego can be funded responsibly for the citizens who reside within the City of San Diego. Another problem she sees increasing are dogs biting other park users and owners not taking responsibility for those actions. She said that usually the City Attorney's office has to get involved in order to track down the offenders from a license plate number as phone numbers and other information is not easily provided by the dog owner in question. She asked that the Board follow-up on her questions.

In response, Acting Chair Barnes informed the Board members that she had attended the morning portion of the General Plan Update Workshop – Recreation Element and that the Planning Commission was very supportive of a Parks Master Plan. Ms. Barnes feels that the criteria for and monitoring of off-leash areas in City parks should be included in a Parks Master Plan. Ms. Barnes asked if there is a process that can be used to change the status of an off-leash area when neighborhoods change and residents require something different. If not, she would like to see this addressed in the Parks Master Plan also.

COMMENTS OR ADDITIONS

None.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Ms. Barnes distributed a copy of her letter to the Planning Commission that was read into the record at the General Plan Update Workshop – Recreation Element earlier today. Ms. Barnes explained that although she is the Acting Park and Recreation Board Chair, she was not speaking on their behalf. The letter included concerns expressed by the Board at the May 18, 2006 meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Ted Medina, Park and Recreation Director, reported on the following:

- Introduced Deputy Chief Ted Martinez, Jr. who is in charge of Neighborhood and Customer Services. Mr. Martinez addressed the Board providing a brief description of his new responsibilities with the City.
- Introduced Deputy City Attorney Alex Sachs, who has replaced Hilda Mendoza as attorney to the Park and Recreation Board. In addition to Mr. Sachs, three additional Deputy City Attorneys have also been assigned to the Park and Recreation Department to assist with other legal needs.
- On Wednesday, June 7, a Grand Opening was held to celebrate the opening of the Joint Use ball fields at Vista Grande Elementary School in the Tierrasanta community.

- On Saturday, May 20, the Dorothy Petway Park Grand Opening was held. Mr. Medina thanked Board member Wilbur Smith for attending.

- Discussed senior management staff changes. Gary Stromberg appointed to Deputy Director, Community Parks I Division. Deputy Director Mauro Garcia reassigned from Community Parks I Division to the Developed Regional Parks Division.

WORKSHOP: General Plan Update – Recreation Element

Due to only four Board members in attendance today, it was the decision of those members that the workshop be continued to the July 20 meeting so that only one presentation needs to be made and the Board members will have ample opportunity to make comments and ask questions. Unless there is something critical that the Board must take action on, the workshop will be the only item on the July 20, 2006 agenda.

Acting Chair Barnes reported that the Planning Commission intends to take a final draft to the community planning groups sometime in September and allow them approximately sixty days to respond before they finalize the document in December. Ms. Barnes emphasized the importance of having the July workshop so that the Park and Recreation Board can then prepare a thorough response to the Planning Commission. Time is critical which means the response needs to be to the Planning Commission in the next one to two months at the very latest.

Acting Chair Barnes and Ms. April Pender, Park Planning and Development Deputy Director reviewed some of the comments made at the General Plan Update Workshop and also discussed information that was included in the Planning Commission's report dated June 15, 2006 pertaining to the Recreation Element. Ms. Barnes e-mailed this report to all Board members prior to the General Plan Update Workshop today.

ACTION ITEMS

None.

INFORMATION ITEMS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Design Review Committee

Ms. Barnes commented about a joint use project between the San Diego Unified School District and the Park and Recreation Department that has been besieged with problems and changes. Not only did the school superintendent change, but the principal for the site changed as well and the school designation from a K1 school to a Middle School also changed. Along with that, what the Park and Recreation Department was left with after the school site was determined, was a badly configured piece of land that they now have to build ball fields on. Ms. Barnes commented that the Planning Commission discussed joint use agreements

at the General Plan Update this morning. Ms. Barnes opined that if the Park and Recreation Department is to continue engaging in joint use agreements with the school district, it should be a full and equal partnership because it is not working the way it is set up now.

This was the only report heard.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting is: Thursday, July 20, 2006, 2:00 p.m.

City Administration Building
Council Committee Room
202 "C" Street, 12th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Submitted by,

Ted Medina
Staff Representative

TM:sp

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